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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: FOLLOW-UP TO POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/120 of 20 December 1995 on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and 50/227 of 24 May 1995 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social, and related fields, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/42 of 26 July 1996,

Recalling also that, in order to fulfil its coordination role, and in accordance with the policies formulated by the Assembly, the Council should consider, on an annual basis in the operational activities segment, the overall financial situation of the United Nations funds and programmes, particularly the contributions from developed countries to core resources, and make specific recommendations thereon on enhancing such contributions,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council and on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

Reaffirming that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have a critical and unique role to play in enabling developing countries to continue to take a lead role in the management of their own development process and that the funds and programmes constitute important vehicles for advancing international development cooperation,

Noting with regret that, although significant progress has already been made on the restructuring and rationalization of the governance and functioning of the United Nations development funds and programmes, there has not been, as part of the overall reform process, any substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, nor have the consultations on prospective new modalities for financing reached a conclusion,

Gravely concerned that the persistent insufficiency and decline of resources for operational activities for development, in particular of core resources, is seriously affecting the priorities and the capacity of the United Nations funds and programmes to carry out their functions and to respond effectively to the increasing needs of all developing countries, as well as seriously eroding their fundamental mandates and characteristics, particularly their universal and multilateral character,

Stressing that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Recognizing the urgent and specific needs of the low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries,

Noting with appreciation the sustained contributions of some donors and recipient countries to the operational activities for development in a spirit of partnership and the recently expressed willingness of some donors to increase their contribution to the funds and programmes,

Reaffirming that capacity-building and its sustainability are an essential element for operational activities of the United Nations systems at the country level, which should be country-led and country-driven,

Noting that Assembly resolution 50/120 provides an opportunity to review all aspects of operational activities, including the resident coordinator system,

1. Takes note of the reports of the United Nations funds and programmes;

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2. Strongly reaffirms that the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the operational activities of the United Nations system must be enhanced by, inter alia, a substantial increase in their funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, through the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 47/199 of 22 December 1992, 48/162, 50/120 and 50/227;

3. Stresses that intergovernmental discussion in the General Assembly, including the fifty-second session, and in the Economic and Social Council is essential to defining an international consensus on any measures that are contemplated to enhance the efficiency and functions of the United Nations funds and programmes;

4. Urges the developed countries, in particular those countries whose overall performance is not commensurate with their capacity, taking into account established official development assistance targets and their current level of contribution, to increase substantially their official development assistance, including contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system and for the effective implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations international conferences;

5. Recommends that the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes review and monitor, as a matter of priority and within the context of their regular meetings, their funding schemes, particularly of core resources, with a view to meeting their agreed upon target, reflecting the priorities and needs of programme countries, and increasing the target for voluntary contributions from official sources from the developed countries as the main source for funding of operational activities for the programming cycles, including the present cycle;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to include in the report requested in paragraph 17 of Assembly resolution 50/227 proposals for increasing funding for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and

assured basis, with a view to allowing the resumption during the fifty-second session of the Assembly substantive discussion on new modalities for funding of operational activities for development;

7. Decides to continue examining during the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 1998 the issue of funding for operational activities of the United Nations system;

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8. Reaffirms that the objective of capacity-building and its sustainability should continue to be an essential part of the operational activities of the United Nations system at the country level and should be country-driven, situation specific and consistent with national development plans and priorities, with the programmatic approach;

9. Emphasizes that capacity building should aim at strengthening national execution, particularly in institutional and human resource development, with a view to enhancing local ownership and management of the development process, utilizing available local capacities and expertise;

10. Requests the United Nations Funds and Programmes to continue to provide support to the resident coordinator system as provided in Assembly resolution 50/120.